

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Corps Seeks Assistance in Solving Crimes at East Lynn Lake

East Lynn Lake – The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers seeks assistance in identifying individuals who have stolen, defaced and/or otherwise vandalized equipment or facilities at East Lynn Lake in Wayne County, W.Va.

According to Resource Manager Mike Smith, recent incidents within the last month include the removal of metal such as copper pipe and aluminum gutters from restrooms and shelters. The most recent vandalism occurred May 13th either late Sunday evening or early Monday morning in the Below Dam Recreation Area and resulted in approximately \$1,000 in damages to Corps property.

On May 6th at approximately 9:30 a.m., vandal(s) cut wires leading to a water quality probe. This equipment is essential in determining water quality parameters within the reservoir and affects lake discharge decisions. Maintaining water quality in the lake and tailwater prevents fish kills, enhances fishing, and decreases the chance of bad odors in the water.

Anyone having knowledge or information about these incidents is encouraged to call *Corps Watch* toll free at 1-866-413-7970. Callers can remain anonymous and may be eligible to receive cash rewards of \$100 to \$1000.

The Huntington District is a participant in [Corps Watch](#), a neighborhood crime-watch deterrence program to protect U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assets. Each year, millions of dollars in property are lost due to vandalism, larceny, arson and environmental and cultural degradation. This program is designed to heighten public awareness of the seriousness of the impacts of crime within or around dams, lakes, navigation locks, recreation areas and other Corps facilities.

To help fight these crimes and reduce operations and maintenance costs, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has received Congressional authority to offer cash rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the possible arrest and acceptance for prosecution of individuals causing damage to Corps property. Individuals who witness or suspect that a crime has been committed against Corps property are encouraged to use the toll-free number, 1-866-413-7970, to report information of theft, vandalism or any other threats or suspicious activity against Corps property 24-hours a day. Callers can remain anonymous.